

No. 27 – San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region boundary largely parallels the San Francisco Bay Hydrologic Region. This IRWM Region includes 9 counties and 110 cities surrounding the San Francisco Bay. Most of the SBA IRWM Region's water supply comes from surface sources, including major supply lines from outside of the Region. A combined 28 percent of this Region's water comes from the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project.

The SFBA Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) governance structure is based on consensus of those who are present at the monthly Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings. If consensus cannot be reached by those in attendance at the CC meetings, the SFBA RWMG relies on 12 voting members from four Functional Areas to make decisions for the entire SFBA IRWM Region. The four Functional Areas are water supply, wastewater, flood management, and habitat/watershed. Voting representatives for the Functional Areas are selected by interest-based associations such as the Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition, the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies, and the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association (BAFPAA). The Bay Area Water Forum also has a role in the SFBA IRWM process by conducting education and outreach. The SFBA RWMG is beginning the process of sub-regional outreach and development. Each sub-region will develop a stakeholder list but defer the decision making authority to the CC.

A regional concern of the SFBA RWMG is flooding. The BAFPAA was formed to address flood management issues. The development of the BAFPAA is attributed to the collaboration between stakeholders during the SFBA IRWM planning effort. Other concerns of the RWMG include increasing water supply to meet demand, improvement of water quality, and ensuring adequate water supply for biological and environmental resource needs. At the RAP interview, the RWMG provided a description of the CC and that of their sub-regional efforts. The RWMG representatives elaborated on their governance structure by clarifying there are no standard set term limits for CC voting positions.

However, there typically is a shortage of participants willing to accept the responsibilities of becoming a voting member.

Interview Conclusions- Approved

The SFBA IRWM Region is the sole IRWM planning effort in the SFBA Funding Area, and the Region spans the entire Funding Area. DWR requires the San Francisco Bay Area IRWM Region to coordinate and cooperate with neighboring IRWM Regions and with the Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM Region to ensure an integrated approach to water resources planning and management, including water importation.